



I'm here today to let you know about an important opportunity coming in California – creation of California's first Citizens Redistricting Commission.

This new commission was created by voters under Prop. 11 – the Voters FIRST Act – which makes significant changes to a complex but very important part of our state government—the redistricting process.



## Overview


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- Between the lines: what's redistricting?
- How did the Voters FIRST Act change the redistricting process?
- What's the role for citizens?
- Why not you? (It's easy)
- How will this work?



In the next few minutes, I'm going to:

- Provide some background on redistricting
- Tell you how the Voters FIRST Act changed the redistricting process
- Discuss the new role for citizens – and how you can take part
- And finally, provide you with some details about how the process will work.



## Between the lines: What's redistricting?

- California is a growing state – but different communities grow at different rates. Once every 10 years the U.S. Census shows us how communities have changed.
- *Redistricting* is the process of changing the boundaries of political districts so that roughly the same number of people live in every Senate, Assembly, Congressional, and Board of Equalization district.
- *Redistricting* ensures every person equal representation. It's how we abide by the principle – one person, one vote.



Let's start with the basics: what's redistricting?

It's not something you hear about every day – but it's very important.

It all starts with the Census, where once every 10 years, we take a look at how our population is changing.

And as you can imagine, every community is different. Some are growing. Some are getting smaller. And even those that are growing may grow at very different rates.

Understanding those changes is important – especially when it comes to political representation.

You can imagine how – if we didn't make adjustments to the boundaries of political districts– you could have one Senator in a rapidly growing area representing a huge number of people – and someone else representing a much smaller number of people.

Redistricting is how we make those adjustments so that every Senator, Assemblymember and Board of Equalization member represents roughly the same number of people – it's how we abide by the principle of one person, one vote.



## How did the “Voters FIRST Act” change the redistricting process?

Voters FIRST Act changed *who* does redistricting:

- Previously, the Governor and State Legislature were responsible for the redistricting process.
- “Voters FIRST” gives a **Citizens Redistricting Commission** responsibility for redistricting State Senate, Assembly, and Board of Equalization districts.
- “Voters FIRST” requires the State Auditor to oversee voter outreach and Commission application and selection process.
- Governor and Legislature continue to conduct Congressional redistricting.



So now, let’s take a look at the Voters FIRST Act, which voters approved in 2008 as Proposition 11.

Up until now, the redistricting process has been overseen by the Legislature and the Governor.

Voters FIRST changed all that. It gives responsibility for redistricting Senate, Assembly and Board of Equalization districts to a new Citizens Redistricting Commission.

The act requires the State Auditor – an independent, non-partisan official – to oversee voter outreach about the new commission, as well as the application and commission selection process.

The act still leaves Congressional redistricting to the Legislature and the Governor.



## What's the role for citizens?

The Citizens Redistricting Commission places real power with the people. The Commission will:

- Hold public hearings and accept public comment
- Draw new district maps
- Vote on a redistricting plan to be used for the next decade.

Commission will be made up of 14 members:

- 5 Democrats
- 5 Republicans
- 4 from neither party



Voters gave themselves real power – the new Citizens Redistricting Commission has a big job to do:

- Holding public hearings
- Drawing the new maps that will govern the entire state for the next 10 years  
(That's 40 Senate districts, 80 Assembly districts and 4 Board of Equalization districts)
- And commission members themselves will vote on the final redistricting plan

The 14-member Commission will be made up of

- 5 Democrats
- 5 Republicans
- 4 from neither party



## Why not you? (It's easy)

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- The more people who apply to serve, the better. We need a commission that appreciates and reflects California's diversity.
- Complete and submit your application on-line
- Applications accepted Dec. 15, 2009 – Feb. 12, 2010
- Go to [www.WeDrawtheLines.ca.gov](http://www.WeDrawtheLines.ca.gov) for regulations, meeting notices, and more



Why not you?

You the voters gave yourself real power, and now is the time to use it by applying to serve on the commission.

The way to get the best possible Commission is to get as many applications as possible – because we do need the Commission to reflect the entire state.

It's easy. Just go on-line to complete and submit your application.

Applications will be accepted December 15, 2009 to February 12, 2010.

The application itself, along with regulations and other information are all available at the website: [www.WeDrawtheLines.ca.gov](http://www.WeDrawtheLines.ca.gov)



## Why not you? (It's easy)

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Who qualifies? Any registered voter who has:

- **Voted** in two of the last three statewide general elections
- **Not changed party affiliation** in the past five years
- Satisfies **conflict-of-interest requirements**



Let's talk briefly about the qualifications for serving on the Commission – which were spelled out in the Voters FIRST Act:

You need to have voted in two of the last three statewide general elections

You need to have not changed your party affiliation in the past five years.

And you need to meet the conflict-of-interest requirements, which I'll go over now.

## Why not you?

Neither **applicant** nor **immediate family** allowed in the past 10 years to have:

- Been appointed to, elected to, or a political candidate for California state or Congressional office
- Been a lobbyist or served as paid staff or consultant to the Governor or California congressional, legislative, or state Board of Equalization member
- Contributed \$2,000 or more in any year to a California candidate



The intent of Voters FIRST is to establish a commission that is fair and impartial and thus, to serve on the commission, Voters FIRST requires that neither you nor any member of your immediate family can have – for the past 10 years – done any of the following:

Been appointed, elected, or been a political candidate for California state or Congressional office.

Been a lobbyist, or serve as paid staff or as a consultant to the Governor, or any California congressional, legislative or state Board of Equalization member

Contributed \$2,000 or more in any year to a California candidate.

So if you meet those requirements – you should seriously consider applying to serve on the Commission.



## How Will This Work?

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- Applications reviewed by three-member review panel
  - All CPA's employed by California State Auditor
  - 1 Democrat, 1 Republican, and 1 other
- Panel screens for conflicts, seeks 60 of the most qualified applicants based on:
  - Relevant analytical skills
  - Ability to be impartial
  - Appreciation for California's diverse demographics and geography



Let's talk about how the application process will work.

Once all the applications are in, they'll be reviewed by a three-member panel made up of certified public accountants working for the State Auditor.

The panel will have one Democrat, one Republican, and one person from neither party.

The panel's job will be to screen applications for the conflicts we talked about, and to identify 60 of the most qualified applicants, based on relevant analytical skills, the ability to be impartial, and an appreciation for California's diverse demography and geography.



## How Will This Work? Selection of the Commissioners

- Applicant review panel provides Legislature names of 60 of the most qualified applicants in three subpools:
  - 20 Democrats
  - 20 Republicans
  - 20 Other
- Legislative leaders may strike up to eight names from each of the three subpools
- State Auditor randomly draws names of the first eight Commissioners
- The initial eight Commissioners select the remaining six to establish the full 14-member Commission



The panel will take 60 of the most qualified applicants and place them in three sub-pools of 20 members each:

20 Democrats

20 Republicans

20 Others

Those names go to the state Legislature. The leaders of both parties in both houses can then “strike” or exclude up to eight names from each of the subpools.

Then, the remaining names come back to the State Auditor, who will conduct a random drawing to choose the first eight members of the commission.

Those eight members will then select – from the remaining names – the final six members needed to complete the creation of the commission.

Then, the commission will get to work.

## Why not you?

More Information available on the World Wide Web



The Voters FIRST Act is new – some call it an experiment in direct democracy.

Redistricting is a complex function – but it's also fundamental.

That's why we need people to take this opportunity to apply and get involved.

California's first Citizens Redistricting Commission means real power for real people – so why not you?

It's easy to apply. All the information you need is at the website on the screen:

[www.WeDrawtheLines.ca.gov](http://www.WeDrawtheLines.ca.gov)